



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Rodelio Baaqin & Family - working with congregations of the Lord's church in the Philippines
- Louis Bureau - dealing with a lung infection
- Josiah Carelse & Family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- CA Fires - Please pray for those who have lost loved ones, homes & possessions and the fire fighters & rescue personnel; also the Pasadena church of Christ whose building was destroyed
- Diane Cote Family - grieving the loss of their loved one who passed away on 12/29/24
- Leslie Denbow - left knee needs replacement surgery; experiencing nerve pain in right foot
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Retha Flack (Terry & Betty's Christian friend) - 2 blockages in heart; treatment being evaluated
- Richard Miles (Kathleen's nephew) - undergoing chemo & radiation to combat a rare sarcoma; recently had large tumors surgically removed from his abdomen; prognosis is not favorable
- Wayne Sampson - currently at SMHC recovering from pneumonia; being scheduled for a wound clinic to assist in healing his large incision
- Karolyn Terrill - strength for daily routines and keeping her cooperative spirit with staff
- Hurricane Victims - prayers for those affected by the devastation brought on by these storms; many have lost everything, including loved ones
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray for those not with us today — the sick & suffering and those who are spiritually weak & struggling

"Pray without ceasing." — 1 Thess 5:17

The God of All Comfort

We serve a loving, compassionate God who seeks to calm, console and comfort his often fearful and anxious children. Through faith—the presence, provision and protection of God in our lives brings us renewed strength, encouragement and comfort. This is what the Psalmist meant when he said, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me" (Ps 23:4).

Our heavenly Father has compassion on us because He knows our weak frame, that we are but dust (Ps 103:13-14). Because He created us and knows us intimately, He knows what we need and when we need it. He is able to minister to our hearts in ways that no one else can. So, we proclaim with the inspired Apostle Paul, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation" (2 Cor 1:3-4). But, in what ways does God provide this comfort?

First, God comforts us through His inspired word which is "alive and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword" (Heb 4:12). As the Psalmist confidently affirms: "This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life" (Ps 119:50). The Hebrew root brings out the idea that God's word has spiritually revived the psalmist, brought him out of despair & depression, and restored his faith. Powerful stuff! Our gracious, merciful God speaks through His holy word "that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" (Rom 15:4).

The word "patience" here can be understood as hopeful endurance, an enduring patience, or steadfast continuance. The inherent power of God's word spiritually sustains the faithful follower and allows him to persevere even through the greatest trials and most difficult sufferings. In addition, the word of God provides encouragement, comfort and consolation to the believer, and also serves to invigorate and rejuvenate the soul. But, perhaps most important, the scriptures give us much needed hope—a joyful and confident expectation of the good that is to come.

Secondly, we are comforted by God when we commune with Him in prayer (Mt 6:6-13). We validate that our trust is in God when we "pour out [our] heart before Him" (Ps 62:8). "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Pet 5:7). When we exercise the privilege of pouring our hearts out to God in prayer, He comforts us by giving us a "peace, which surpasses all understanding" (Phil 4:7).

Finally, God will often use the human agent to bring comfort — that is — He will use others to comfort us. Paul acknowledged this truth when relating that, while in Macedonia, he and his fellow laborers were "troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears. Nevertheless, God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus" (2 Cor 7:5-6). Another good example would be that of Job's three friends who, when they heard of his great loss and severe suffering, came to "mourn with him, and to comfort him" (Job 2:11).

One of the main reasons why our heavenly Father works so diligently to comfort us when we need it is, "that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" (2 Cor 1:4).

— Terry Schmidt ✍



"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

- Acts 16:30 -

Hear the Gospel - John 6:44-45; Rom 10:14,17
Believe [trust in] God - John 3:16; 8:24; Ac 16:31
Heb 11:6

Repent of sins - Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30

Confess Christ - Mt 10:32-33; Ac 8:36-37;
Rom 10:8-10

Be baptized - Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; 8:36; 22:16;
1 Pet 3:21

Be faithful unto death - Mt 7:21; Rev 2:10

☺ **Welcome Visitors!** ☺

We are glad to have you as our honored guests!

The Ultimate Comfort

Our loving God is the “Father of compassion” and the “God of all comfort” (2 Cor 1:3). He is able and eager to provide comfort to His children in any and all circumstances. Whatever the difficulty or trial we face, our Heavenly Father is keenly aware of the situation, and offers comfort as needed. God’s purpose is that the comfort we receive from Him will flow through us into the lives of others (2 Cor 1:4). In bringing comfort to those who need it, we glorify God by giving them, and any who may witness it, a glimpse of how He comforts those in distress. God is always near, and He is as close as your next prayer. So, our gracious heavenly Father lovingly invites us to humbly make our requests known to Him (Phil 4:6). When we, by faith, turn our worries and problems over to Him in prayer, “the God of peace will be with [us]” (Phil 4:7), and we will be supremely comforted. Of course, the ultimate comfort will come in that Day when “God shall wipe away all tears from [our] eyes” (Rev 21:4), and we shall be with Him forever and ever! (Rev 22:5). Amen! 😊

Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 6,419
This Month: 12,271



SNACKS!

Jan 19: Jan
Jan 26: Betty

Attendance & Contribution

for January 12, 2025

Attendance — 20
Contribution — \$684

Order of Worship

January 19, 2025

*“Praise the LORD; for the LORD is good:
sing praises unto His name;
for it is pleasant .”*

📖 - Psalm 135:3 - 📖

Song Leader: *Terry Schmidt*

Song—216

Opening Prayer: *Jason Kennedy*

Song—240

Scripture Reading: *George Cuvellier*
~ Psalm 86:1-7 ~

Song—273

The Lord’s Supper
Louis Bureau (lead) & Mike Doucette

Song—485

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*
“Praying With Persuasion”

Song—261

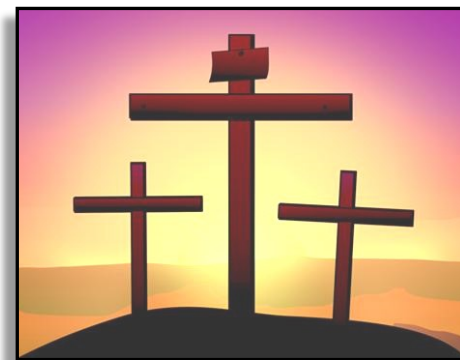
Announcements & Closing Prayer
Jim Miller

Alternates: David Larrabee/
Wayne Sampson

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Lord’s Supper Prep: *Terry Kennedy*

## Southern Maine Church of Christ

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*We love Him, because  
He first loved us.  
- 1 John 4:19 -*

## January 19, 2025

### Meeting on the Lord’s Day:

9:30 am — Bible Class  
10:30 am — Worship

*“Let us consider one another in order  
to stir up love and good works, not  
forsaking the assembling of ourselves  
together, as is the manner of some, but  
exhorting one another, and so much the  
more as you see the Day approaching.”*

- Hebrews 10:24-25 -

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